

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENNA 00893 031549Z

46

ACTION IO-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 0893

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNIDO AORG APER

GENEVA FOR USDEL GENEVA GROUP

REF: VIENNA 0264

1. DURING PAST COUPLE OF WEEKS WE HAVE BEEN HEARING REFERENCES BY UNIDO SECRETARIAT CONTACTS TO "COMPLICATIONS" IN CONNECTION WITH APPOINTMENT OF FINDLEY BURNS AS DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION. AS REPORTED REFTEL, WHEN WE REFERRED TO THIS SUBJECT DURING OUR COURTESY CALL ON EX. DIRECTOR KHENE HIS RESPONSE WAS NON-COMMITTAL.

2. DURING LUNCHEON CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY DCM LAST WEEK FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM NEW YORK FOLL EXTENT OF KHENE'S UNWILLINGNESS TO PROCEED WITH BRUNS' APPOINTMENT BECAME EVIDENT. KHENE PICTURED HIMSELF AS CAUGHT ON HORNS OF AGONIZING DILEMMA. ON THE ONE HAND, HIS APPOINTMENT OF BRUNS NOW, AFTER LESS THAN ONE MONTH ON THE JOB AND BEFORE HAVING FIRMLY ESTABLISHED HIS PERSONAL AUTHORITY IN THE ORGANIZATION, WOULD
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VIENNA 00893 031549Z

LOSE HIM THE CONFIDENCE OF "MOST OF THE HIERARCHY OF

UNIDO" WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS BEING IN A HIGH STATE OF EXCITEMENT OVER THE APPOINTMENT. IN SUCH CASE HE WOULD BE "DEAD" AS FAR AS BEING AN EFFECTIVE EX. DIRECTOR WAS CONCERNED WHICH WOULD PROBABLY LEAD HIM TO PULL UP STAKES AND GO HOME TO ALGERIA. ON THE OTHER HAND, FAILURE TO MOVE ON THE APPOINTMENT WOULD RISK INCURRING EXTREME DISPLEASURE OF US WITHOUT WHOSE SUPPORT UNIDO WOULD DETERIORATE TO THE POINT OF USELESSNESS. HOWEVER, DCM'S CLEAR IMPRESSION THROUGHOUT CONVERSATION WAS THAT KHENE HAD DECIDED NOT TO ACCEPT BRUNS FOR THE POSITION ALTHOUGH KHENE RECOGNIZED THAT BURNS WAS HIGHLY QUALIFIED AND FELT HE COULD WORK WELL WITH HIM.

3. WE FIND KHENE'S REFERENCES TO HIS ANTICIPATED PROBLEMS WITH THE UNIDO SECRETARIAT AS THE OBSTACLE TO APPOINTING A US NATIONAL TO THE POST INCREDULOUS. IF TRUE, IT WOULD HARDLY SEEM TO AUGUR WELL FOR A STRONG HAND ON THE STAFF. REAL REASON IS PROBABLY HIS CONCERN WITH REACTIONS AND VIEWS OF OTHER MEMBER COUNTRIES. (IN THIS CONNECTION DEPT WILL RECALL PRESSURES FOR GREATER LDC REPRESENTATION AT SENIOR SECRETARIAT LEVELS FROM G-77 AT AD HOC COMMITTEE ON LONG-RANGE STRATEGY AND AT IDB-VIII, WHERE JAPANESE, FOR EXAMPLE, ALSO PUSHED FOR FIVE D-2 DIVISION DIRECTOR POSITIONS TO BE DIVIDED EACH AMONG DIFFERENT GEOGRAPHIC GROUPS.) WE SUSPECT QUESTION HAS ALREADY BEEN SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION BETWEEN KHENE AND OTHER MISSIONS.

4. KHENE TOLD DCM HE WOULD BE TAKING MATTER UP AGAIN IN NEW YORK WHEN HE TRAVELS THERE FROM DAKAR O/A FEB. 5., IN ORDER TO TRY TO FIND SOME COMPROMISE. WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT SPECIFIC PROPOSALS KHENE WILL EXPLORE. (ONE POSSIBILITY HE MENTIONED TO DCM WOULD BE TO BRING BARBOSA BACK FROM GENEVA AND GIVE US (BURNS) THE GENEVA POSITION.) IN ANY CASE, WE FEEL SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR THAT US FINDS UNACCEPTABLE THE PROPOSITION THAT IT IS INAPPROPRIATE FOR A US NATIONAL TO BE APPOINTED TO THE POST OF DIRECTOR OF UNIDO ADMINISTRATION. IN CONNECTION

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 VIENNA 00893 031549Z

WITH ANY DISCUSSION WITH SYG/DAVIDSON/KHENE IN WHICH QUESTION OF US OCCUPYING TWO D-2 POSTS IN UNIDO MAY ARISE, CAN BE POINTED OUT THAT NUMBER 1 AND 2 POSTS IN UNIDO ARE NOW HELD BY NATIONALS, NOT ONLY FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, BUT FROM THE SAME AREA (AS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED AFIFI HAS ASSUMED ROLE OF VIRTUAL DE FACTO DEPT EX. DIRECTOR). MOREOVER, UNTIL AFIFI'S APPOINTMENT AS SENIOR

ADVISER, POST HAD BEEN HELD BY NATIONALS FROM OECD COUNTRIES SINCE UNIDO'S ESTABLISHMENT. IN ADDITION, IMPORTANT DIVISION OF INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR 50 PERCENT OF UNIDO'S OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES, HAS HEAVY SOVIET/EASTERN EUROPEAN CAST, HEADED BY SOVIET DIRECTOR. US, WHICH AT ONE TIME WAS REPRESENTED AT DEPUTY DIRECTOR AND SECTION CHIEF LEVEL, HAS LOST BOTH THESE POSITIONS. ALSO, US IS APPARENTLY SLATED TO LOSE DEPUTY DIRECTOR POSITION IN TECHNICAL COOPERATION DIVISION (WHICH NOW HAS TWO DEPUTY SLOTS) THROUGH SUPERANNUATION OF PRESENT INCUMBENT AND REPORTED DESIRE OF DIVISION DIRECTOR TO RETAIN ONLY ONE DEPUTY. ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, INCLUDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT VIA REGULAR BUDGET AND UNDP WHICH US MAKES AVAILABLE, WE DO NOT ACCEPT THAT IN CONTEXT OF PRESENT DISTRIBUTION OF POSTS IN UNIDO SECRETARIAT OCCUPATION OF TWO D-2 POSTS BY US NATIONALS WOULD RESULT IN EXCESSIVE AMERICAN REPRESENTATION. HOWEVER, SHOULD OUR HOLDING TWO D-2 POSTS EMERGE AS REAL STICKING POINT IN BURNS' APPOINTMENT, WE COULD INDICATE READINESS TO RELINQUISH POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF ISI DIVISION, WHICH MISSION HAS ALWAYS REGARDED AS OF LESSER IMPORTANCE IN WORKINGS OF UNIDO (APPOINTMENT OF PRESENT INCUMBENT WILL EXPIRE SUMMER OF 1976.)

5. SHOULD IT NEVERTHELESS BECOME CLEAR IN JUDGEMENT OF USUN THAT US WILL NOT OBTAIN POST OF DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION, WE SHOULD INSIST ON OFFSETTING LOSS OF THE POST, WHICH WILL IN MANY UNIDO QUARTERS BE REGARDED AS AN IMPORTANT DEFEAT FOR THE US, BY FIRM ARRANGEMENTS WITH KHENE AND UNNY PROVIDING US WITH SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 VIENNA 00893 031549Z

POSTS ELSEWHERE IN UNIDO, MISSION WOULD BE PREPARED IDENTIFY POSSIBILITIES IN THIS REGARD. GRIBBLE

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